

DRAFT

Town of Red Hook

Tree Preservation Commission: Minutes for July 16, 2019

Attendance: Cathy Michael, George (Hop) Michael, Karen Cadorette, Dave Grover, Eleanor Friery, Doug Traudt, Codie Hay and Linda Keeling, secretary

Absent: Town Council Liaison Sarah Imboden

Guest: None

Location: Red Hook Town Hall

Purpose: Our regular monthly meeting is normally held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Town Hall.

Call to Order: There was a quorum (7 out of 7, 100%). *Chairman Cathy Michael* called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. The Chairman handed out an agenda.

Quote of the month: **“If I knew I should die tomorrow, I would plant a tree today.”**

Minutes: Corrections / Additions

1. P. 1, #2, L 5: Capitalize “king” and “hawthorn”
2. P. 2, #6, L 1: Add “ed” to “contact”
3. P. 2, #6, L 7: Change “Lob” to “Robe”

Motion: *Hop Michael* motioned to accept the minutes from June as corrected, *Dave Grover* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. London Plane Tree on Pitcher Lane: *Hop Michael* reported there are several sucker shoots visible. Hop and *Codie Hay* agreed to allow these to take hold then after awhile an inspection will be made to see if one strong sucker can be encouraged to avoid pulling the tree out and replacing it at this point.

Karen Cadorette noted her company has noticed many frost cracked trees especially on London Planes and Sugar Maples. This is caused by high temperatures during the day then extremely low temperatures at night.

2. “Floppy” Trees on Pitcher Lane: *Doug Traudt* and *Codie Hay* inspected the floppy trees. It was determined to apply wires, hose and stakes to try to encourage bark healing to straighten them out. It might help the trees to create compaction wood. *Codie* paid for the Agway supplies. *Linda Keeling* reminded him he can be reimbursed for this. He declined at this time as the expense was minor. Top trimming will not be done at this time.

3. Rec Park Sign Planting: *Hop Michael* reported he left a message for John Kuhn on his phone. Hopefully, the Pool Group can oversee the weeding in this area.

4. Rhinebeck Bank / Town Hall Project: *Hop Michael* visited with Theresa Burke and referenced the tree catalog potential plantings. He called the grounds person at the bank, Dan Elberg. The bank does

not want troublesome liability trees like black walnuts dropping onto cars. The tree suggestions involve berries and flowering trees. Hop presented a Dutchess County Parcel map which he noted is not accurate to determine property lines. *Linda Keeling* agreed it could be off by as much as 10-15 ft. Dan has agreed to consult the bank's property map to define the line and curtail any future controversy about the tree's ownership.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Eleanor Friery was Approached by Superintendent Paul Finch at a Retirement Function: Paul Finch was concerned about down trees on Linden Ave, near the Middle School. *Linda Keeling* suggested referring him to the Village Green. She noted we should be encouraging more diversity of future plantings.

2. Mill Rd. Nature Trail Area: *Eleanor Friery* indicated the Nature Trail area has very large weeds growing. She is requesting a work party for the beginning of September. In the meantime, she will contact Perry Sheldon, groundskeeper, to see if they can do some mowing and weed whacking. Eleanor said some of the trees are doing very well. The High Bush Cranberry berries came out this year. There was no BioBlitz this year for the third graders.

3. General Discussion: *Codie Hay* asked if anyone has seen the invasive spotted lantern beetle on any trees, especially the Ailanthus (also known as The Tree of Heaven, originally from China). He said they are invading orchards, too, which could be a potential impact on our local orchards. No one has seen any evidence here but *Karen Cadorette* said some has been seen much further south of here in New Jersey.

Linda Keeling mentioned the Newburg Tree Conference is this Thursday, the 18th. *Hop Michael* mentioned some of the agenda looked interesting. You can still sign up but a late fee of \$50 on top of the regular fee would not be practical.

Hop Michael noted he mowed the Upper Red Hook planting area last week. Others noted it looks very nice. The Fringe is sending up shoots, the fertilizer helped the Hot Wings Maple and the Hawthorne continues to thrive.

Other discussion focused on invasive plants and the pros and cons of trying to remove them especially those with deep root systems like phragmites. It was noted that the roadsides benefit from the flowering weeds colors like Queen Anne's Lace and Clover. *Doug Traudt* noted wisteria is a big problem on Cruger's Island. It can grow to 30 ft. with large hanging clusters that multiply quickly.

It was noted that Dutchess County is using a pesticide to control the weeds around telephone poles, guard rails, rocky outcroppings, etc. near or crossing streams and it looks ugly. Some further discussion focused on Round-Up and the problems with it causing cancer. *Doug Traudt* said the idea is to protect streams and drinking water but it seems to be ignored for a short term result. *Linda Keeling* brought up the fact that many decades ago Dutchess County was fog spraying for mosquitoes while children were waiting for their school bus. The people protested and the spraying was stopped.

Chairman Cathy Michael reported the tree list for the fall is not out yet.

It was noted that Black Oak is not invasive; it is the Black Locust that is invasive. There is a Swamp Oak on Pitcher Lane. A Scarlet Oak is on p. 45 of the catalog. It gets to a height of 70 ft. *Dave Grover* mentioned a stand of Sycamore trees on Rt. 308 going towards the Rhinebeck Town Garage. *Codie Hay* noted they all came back and leafed out. *Codie* mentioned the huge, magnificent White Oak trees at the Vanderbilt Mansion property have some heavy limbs propped up.

Dave Grover inquired about our budget. *Chairman Cathy Michael* said she will check soon. *Hop Michael* noted if after purchasing the trees for the fall, any money left over might go towards eradicating the Maple on Pitcher Lane.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Motion: *Hop Michael* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Dave Grover* seconded and all agreed.

Next Meeting: NO MEETING IN AUGUST!

The next scheduled meeting is suggested for **Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm** at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, TC Secretary